

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

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1. An apparatus for forming an image by use of a plurality of light beams, which are simultaneously modulated according to image signals and joined together on a photoconductive surface to
10 form the image, comprising:

a photoconductive drum having the photoconductive surface and a reference mark;

an pattern supplying unit which supplies image data in synchronization with detection of the
15 reference mark associated with rotation of the photoconductive drum; and

drawing systems which create moiré stripes on the photoconductive surface by simultaneously drawing overlapping sets of slanted lines with the
20 respective light beams according to the image data, and draw a reference position mark on the photoconductive surface according to the image data.

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2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
further comprising a computing unit which computes
an amount of correction of position of the light
5 beams on the photoconductive surface in a main scan
direction in response to comparison between position
of the moiré stripes and position of the reference
position mark, the main scan direction being
substantially parallel to an axis of the
10 photoconductive drum.

15 3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
further comprising a circuit which adjusts position
of the light beams on the photoconductive surface in
a main scan direction according to comparison
between position of the moiré stripes and position
20 of the reference position mark, the main scan
direction being substantially parallel to an axis of
the photoconductive drum.

4. The apparatus as claimed in claim 2,
further comprising a sensor which detects the
position of the moiré stripes.

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5. The apparatus as claimed in claim 2,
10 wherein said computing unit computes the amount of
correction of position of the light beams by
interpolating data that are obtained for at least
three positions along a circumference of the
photoconductive drum.

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6. The apparatus as claimed in claim 2,
20 wherein said comparison is made either on the
photoconductive surface or on a sheet of paper on
which a toner image of the moiré stripes and the
reference position mark is created.

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7. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
wherein said drawing systems include:

5 a first drawing system which uses a first
one of the light beams to draw a first set of lines
slanted at a predetermined angle; and

 a second drawing system which uses a
second one of the light beams to draw a second set
10 of lines slanted at an angle opposite to the
predetermined angle, said first set of lines and
said second set of lines having an identical line
pitch and an identical line width.

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8. An apparatus for adjusting position of
a plurality of light beams, which are simultaneously
20 modulated according to image signals and joined
together on a photoconductive surface to form an
image, comprising:

 a photoconductive drum having the
photoconductive surface and a reference mark;

25 an pattern supplying unit which supplies

image data in synchronization with detection of the reference mark associated with rotation of the photoconductive drum;

drawing systems which create moiré stripes
5 on the photoconductive surface by simultaneously drawing overlapping sets of slanted lines with the respective light beams according to the image data, and draw a reference position mark on the photoconductive surface according to the image data;
10 and

a circuit which adjusts position of the light beams on the photoconductive surface in a main scan direction according to comparison between position of the moiré stripes and position of the
15 reference position mark, the main scan direction being substantially parallel to an axis of the photoconductive drum.

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9. An apparatus for forming an image by use of a plurality of light beams, which are simultaneously modulated according to image signals
25 and joined together on a photoconductive drum to

form the image, comprising:

means for forming a reference position
mark on the photoconductive drum; and

means for forming moiré stripes on the
5 photoconductive drum by simultaneously drawing
overlapping sets of slanted lines with the
respective light beams.

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10. The apparatus as claimed in claim 9,
further comprising computing means for computing an
amount of correction of position of the light beams
15 on the photoconductive drum in a main scan direction
in response to comparison between position of the
moiré stripes and position of the reference position
mark, the main scan direction being substantially
parallel to an axis of the photoconductive drum.

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11. The apparatus as claimed in claim 9,
25 further comprising means for adjusting position of

the light beams on the photoconductive drum in a main scan direction according to comparison between position of the moiré stripes and position of the reference position mark, the main scan direction
5 being substantially parallel to an axis of the photoconductive drum.

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12. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, further comprising means for detecting the position of the moiré stripes.

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13. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said computing means computes the amount of
20 correction of position of the light beams by interpolating data that are obtained for at least three positions along a circumference of the photoconductive drum.

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14. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10,
wherein said comparison is made either on the
5 photoconductive surface or on a sheet of paper on
which a toner image of the moiré stripes and the
reference position mark is created.

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15. The apparatus as claimed in claim 9,
wherein said means for forming moiré stripes
include:

15 a first drawing system which uses a first
one of the light beams to draw a first set of lines
slanted at a predetermined angle; and

a second drawing system which uses a
second one of the light beams to draw a second set
20 of lines slanted at an angle opposite to the
predetermined angle, said first set of lines and
said second set of lines having an identical line
pitch and an identical line width.

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16. An apparatus for adjusting position of
a plurality of light beams, which are simultaneously
5 modulated according to image signals and joined
together on a photoconductive drum to form an image,
comprising:

means for forming a reference position
mark on the photoconductive drum;

10 means for forming moiré stripes on the
photoconductive drum by simultaneously drawing
overlapping sets of slanted lines with the
respective light beams; and

means for adjusting position of the light
15 beams on the photoconductive drum in a main scan
direction according to comparison between position
of the moiré stripes and position of the reference
position mark, the main scan direction being
substantially parallel to an axis of the
20 photoconductive drum.